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# INFORMATION REPORT

## REFERENCE

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**SUBJECT** Revision of Chinese Telegraphic  
Code by the Chinese Communists

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

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A COMPARISON OF THE "CHINESE TELEGRAPHIC CODE" (hereafter referred to as the "Old Code") AND THE "STANDARD CHINESE TELEGRAPHIC CODE" (hereafter referred to as the "New Code").

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The New Code is a revision of the Old Code.

## CHANGES

While the major part of the main body of the Code remains unaltered, numerous changes have been brought into force. The main changes are:

## I. Transposition of Characters

The transposition of characters from the main body of the Old Code to the Supplement of the New Code, and from the Supplement and Extra Supplement of the Old Code to the main body of the New Code, is shown as follows:

- (1) 177 characters have been transposed from the Supplement and Extra Supplement of the Old Code to the main body of the New Code. Such transfer has been reprinted on pages 106 and 107, where New Code numbers are given above the characters and Old Code numbers below them.

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- (2) 285 characters have been removed from the main body of the Old Code to the Revised Supplement of the New Code. Such characters so removed have been reprinted for reference purposes on pages 108 to 110, where New Code numbers are given above the characters and Old Code numbers below them.

## II. New Characters

205 new characters have been introduced into the New Code, of which 123 are for the main body of the New Code and 82 for its supplement. A List of New Characters has been reprinted on pages 103 and 105.

## III. Miscellaneous Additions & Reprint

The following additions and reprint have been made:

- (1) Hours (9800)
  - (2) Months (January) (December)
- are given in (9701-9712) (Reprinted on page 105)
- (3) Chinese National Phonetic Alphabet or Signs (9720 to 9756), for example (9720), (9721), etc.
  - (4) Alphabet of the Russian Language (9768 to 9799)  
The letters of the alphabet are arranged toward the end of the page for clarity's sake. (Reprinted on page 105)
  - (5) Roman Alphabet (From A to Z) (9874 to 9899) (Reprinted on page 105)
  - (6) Punctuation Marks (9975 to 9999), e.g., period (.) (9975), comma (,) (9976), etc.
  - (7) Reprint
    - (a) Hours of day, days of month, and months on page 101.
    - (b) Punctuation Marks, with explanation, on page 102.
    - (c) A short note on how to send a telegram, given in four pages, is printed after page 136.

## IV. Improvements

- (1) Systematic Arrangement of Characters of Obscure Radicals

This follows arrangement given in R. H. Mathews "Chinese-English Dictionary" (1931), namely, in the order of strokes each character has in the first instance, and then in the order of the 214 radicals when under each stroke. Such characters, with New Code numbers above them, appear on pages 111 to 121.

- (2) Coordination of the Supplement and Extra Supplement of the Old Code into the Supplement (one and only one Supplement) of the New Code.

Such a revised supplement as shown on pages 81 to 97 of New Code by strict adherence to the order in which the 214 radicals are arranged, proves useful in that it saves both time and labor in finding the required characters.

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V. Arrangement

- (1) The Characters in every page are arranged from left to right in the New Code, to replace the from-top-to-bottom arrangement in the Old Code.
- (2) Secret code guides (in the Roman Alphabet) are added to the New Code and put on the top of every page from page 1 to 100, e.g., KFK-KJF on page 70.

VI. Printing

The New Code was edited and published by the Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone of the Central People's Government (May, 1952; 120,000 copies), but the Old Code was printed by the Commercial Press, Ltd., and other bookstores or publishers of a commercial nature.

ERRATA

<u>Pages</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Corrections</u>
Frontispiece, line 6, 5th word or code	9718	9781
Main Body of Code, page (43), Code (4264)		
Main Body of Code, page (75), Code (7481)		
Supplement page (83), Code (8247)		
Supplement page (86), Code (8597)		
Supplement page (92), Code (9131)		
Supplement page (96), Code (9544)		
Page (103), Code (1641)		
Page (115), the word " "	0185	0186
Page (120), the word " "	7002	7003

(Translated from the Table of Errata on loose sheet)

NOTES

(Source of material: from loose sheet attached to the New Code and other

The New Code has been put into effect since October 1, 1952.<sup>1</sup> During the half year when this New Code is brought into use to March 31, 1952, temporary use of the Old Code is permitted. However, new and old Codes must not be combined in a single telegram. Where New Code is used, the character piao-chun-pen (2871/3294/2609) (standard code) should be employed to distinguish it from the Old Code.

BRIEF ANALYSIS

The main points of a brief analysis of this revised or New Code are given below:

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1. Utility

The editors and publishers of the New Code might have intended to make it a more useful code than its predecessor. It is an attempt to introduce new Chinese characters which have come into general use in Communist China (Paragraph II above). Transposing characters more in general use into the main body of the Code (Paragraph I above), the addition of months of the year, Chinese National Phonetic Alphabet or Signs, the Russian Alphabet, the Roman Alphabet and Punctuation Marks--all help to explain that the New Code endeavors to satisfy the demands of the public in Communist China today. In this connection, it might perhaps have been associated with attempts, if any, to simplify the Chinese Language. Further, the systematic arrangement of characters of obscure radicals and the re-editing of two supplements of the Old Code into a single supplement in the New Code might aid to enhance its value to the public.

2. Government Influence

Besides being a Government publication, the New Code works in line with Government instructions. An example of this is that of Punctuation Marks (New Code numbers 9975 to 9999). A comparison reveals that these Punctuation Marks follow the instructions of the State Administration Council on the same subject, which were published in "1952 People's Handbook," pages 437-8, by the Ta Kung Pao, Shanghai, on August 20, 1952. The only exceptions are:

- (a) Decimal point (.) (9978), equal sign (=) (9983), sign for blank space (9998) and sign for another line (x x), which appear in the New Code, are not found in the instructions of the State Administration Council; and
- (b) A pair of signs for emphasis (.) (9992, 9993), for special terms ( . ) (9994, 9995), and for names of books (9996, 9997) ( . ), ( . ) have been introduced in the New Code, but only one of each pair is contained in the instructions.

3. More Characters

Both the main body and the supplement of the New Code contain more Chinese characters than those of the Old Code. 177 characters have been transposed from the supplement and extra supplement of the Old Code to the main body of the New Code; 285 from the main body of the Old Code to the Supplement of the New Code. (These figures show that the transposition is by no means an exact one.) 205 new characters have been introduced, of which 123 are for the main body of the New Code and 82 for its Supplement. Thus, after the revision, the main body of the New Code has 15 characters more than its predecessor, and the supplement of the New Code 190 more, as shown below:

New Code

<u>Main body</u>	177 characters (from supplements of Old Code)
Add	123 " (new characters)
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Total:	300 characters
Subtract:	285 " (taken to supplement of New Code)
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Balance:	15 characters

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<u>Supplement</u>	285 characters (from main body of Old Code)
Add	82 " (New characters)
Total:	367 characters
Subtract	177 " (taken to main body of the New Code)
Balance:	190 characters

4. New Code Numbers

Chinese characters transposed from the main body of the Old Code to the Supplement of the New Code, and from the Supplement and Extra Supplement of the Old Code to the main body of the New Code, have been reprinted on 108 to 110 and 106 to 107 respectively. In both cases, the New Code numbers are given above the characters and Old Code numbers are given below them. It would facilitate reference and would perhaps be more logical if the New Code numbers are placed below the characters instead.

5. Abbreviated Form of Chinese Characters

Such abbreviated forms are given under the list of Chinese characters of obscure radicals on pages 111 to 121. Examples of these are huai (2037) ( ) under the 7th stroke; kuo (6665) ( ) under the 7th stroke; sheng (5116) under the 7th stroke; shih (0013) under the 6 stroke; and many others.

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1. [ ] the date when this code was to be put into effect was delayed from 1 October to 15 November 1952 in Yunnan. Since this delay was ordered by the Peiping government it may be assumed that the date change was effective throughout China.

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[ ] Comment. This study is reproduced as received. Spaces for characters throughout the text were left blank in the copy of the study received here. The blank spaces had to be retained in this report since no copy of the new code book has yet been made available to this office.

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